exercises with other countries, similar to the recently concluded exercise with the US Air Force;

(b) if so, the detals thereof;

(c) whether such peacetime exercises are precursors to wartime joint operations by India with any of the countries it holds joint defence exercises with; and

(d) if so, the details of any agreement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the joint exercise planned with armed forces of other countries are worked out through out the year. In near future joint exercises with countries like USA, UK, France, Singapore, Malayasia, Russia, Indonesia are likely to take place.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Acquisition of Submarine Vessels from France

1549. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has entered into a contract with France to acquire sophisticated submarine vessels;

(b) if so, the details of the contract and rigts of India to use French technologies for indigenous manufacture of its own submarines based on French technologies; and

(c) what is the world ranking of French submarine proposed to be acquired?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Contracts for the indigenous construction of six French scorpene class submarines at Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL), Mumbai, under Transfer of Technology from M/s ARMARIS, France were signed on 6th October 2005. The total cost of the project sanctioned by the Government is Rs. 18798 crore including Rs. 3553 crore as taxes. The project cost is inclusive of Rs. 2160 crore provided as budgetary estimate for Torpedo, Portable Deep

Water Noise Range, Base and Depot spares and MDL infrastructure. It also includes the cost of contract between MDL, Mumbai and M/s Armaris, France; MDL and Government of India; and Government of India and M/s MBDA, France. Transfer of the build technology would enable Indian Naval Design Team to undertake modifications/replacement of equipment from third submarine onwards. The design knowledge would also help in the indigenous design and construction of submarines planned for the second phase of 30 year submarine construction programme. French scorpene class submarines are considered to be one of the best conventional submarines in the world.

Expenditure Incurred on Indo-Sri Lanka joint patrolling

1550. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 114 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th November, 2005 and state:

(a) the expenditure on Indo-Sri Lanka joint patrolling;

(b) whether Government had taken precautions to avoid harassing fishermen during the patrolling; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) While answering the Starred Question No. 114 on 30.11.2005, it was mentioned that there has been no joint patrol with the Sri Lankan Navy. Therefore, the question of incurring expenditure on Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Patrolling does not arise.

(b) and (c) The Indian Navy and the Coast Guard, during patrolling, do not harass the Indian fishermen. However, the fishermen are regularly educated by these agencies not to cross the International Maritime Boundary Line to avoid apprehension by the Sri Lankan Navy.

Release on cash and rice for the flood-ravaged areas of Andhra Pradesh

1551. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh requested Union Government